



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 15, 2003

Contact: Herman Reddick (858) 565-3490

## **COUNTY LAUNCHES DISASTER PLANNING EFFORT** *Countywide Plan to Cover Natural and Manmade Disasters*

A countywide plan that identifies risks posed by natural and manmade disasters – and ways to minimize damage from those disasters – will be the task of a newly formed group of representatives from the County of San Diego and the region's 18 cities.

The group will meet every three weeks, and its goal will be to finish its work by December. The plan then must go to the County Board of Supervisors and the respective City Councils for adoption. The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. Monday, July 14, at the County Office of Emergency Services, 5555 Overland Avenue, Building 19, San Diego.

"Public input into this process is very important and residents are encouraged to attend the meetings, make comments and ask questions. Without ideas from the public, the plan will not be nearly as effective; we are counting on a high degree of public participation to help shape this plan," said Deborah Steffen, Director of the Office of Emergency Services.

Planning efforts will focus on potential impacts of disasters such as earthquakes, fires and floods, along with terrorist attacks.

The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all local governments to create such a disaster plan in order to qualify for funding in the future. A grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency has allowed the County to hire a consultant, URS Corp., to assist in the creation of San Diego County's plan.

San Diego County is one of the first in the State to tackle this planning effort on a regionwide basis, and the County's plan will likely be considered a model for other agencies to follow.

Additional meetings are scheduled for Aug. 4, Aug. 25 and Sept. 15.

###